



State of Maryland

Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene/Planning Council

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary, DHMH

MARYLAND ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HYGIENE/ PL 102-321 PLANNING COUNCIL

Minutes

December 18, 2012

Maryland Advisory Council Members: Gerald Beemer, M. Sue Diehl, Vice Chair; Joshana Goga, Dennis McDowell, Joanne Meekins, Robert M. Pender, John Turner

Maryland Advisory Council Members Absent: Richard Blair, Jaimi L. Brown, Sarah Burns, Chair, Mike Finkle, Michele Forzley, Livia Pazourek, Edwin C. Oliver, Charles Reifsnider, John Scharf, Anita Solomon, Sherrie Wilcox

Individuals highlighted as such are resigned members who have not yet been replaced.

PL 102-321 Council Members Present: Carol Allenza, Coordinator; T.E. Arthur, Coordinator; Naomi Booker, Chicquita Crawford, Herb Cromwell, Kate Farinholt, R. Terence Farrell, Duane Felix, Victor Henderson, Julie Jerscheid, Steven Kinney for Tracee Bryant, Dan Martin, Madeline Morey for Alice Harris, Cynthia Petion, Jacqueline Powell, Sarah Rhine, Phoenix Woody

PL 102-321 Council Members Absent: Lynn Albizo, Kim Bennardi, Eugenia W. Conolly, Catherine Drake, Vira Froehlinger, A. Scott Gibson, Gerri Gray, Diane Herr, Michael Ito, Michael Lang, Sharon Lipford, George Lipman, Linda Raines, Sheryl Sparer, Jane Walker, Kathleen Ward

MHA Staff Present: Robin Poponne, Thomas Merrick, Iris Reeves, Carole Frank, Greta Carter

Guests and Others:

Marian Bland, Office of Special Needs Populations, Mental Hygiene Administration;
Derrick L. Richardson, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Maryland;
Marc Reiner, ValueOptions@Maryland; Adrienne Hollimon, DHMH

c/o Mental Hygiene Administration

Spring Grove Hospital Center – 55 Wade Avenue – Dix Building – Catonsville MD 21228 – (410) 402-8473

TDD for Disabled – Maryland Relay Service (800) 735-2258

Healthy People in Healthy Communities

INTRODUCTIONS/ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

The meeting was called to order by Council Vice Chair, Sue Diehl. Attendees introduced themselves. The draft minutes of the November 20th meeting were approved. The approved minutes will be posted on the Mental Hygiene Administration's (MHA) Web site www.dhmf.maryland.gov/mha. The Maryland Advisory Council on Mental Hygiene's link is listed under "Resources".

The Council held a moment of silence to honor the memory of those who died at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Joanne Meekins, Director of the Consumer Quality Team, announced that the Mental Health Association of Maryland (MHAMD) has moved to Lutherville. Current email addresses and phone numbers will continue to connect temporarily. The new address is:

1301 York Road Suite 505
Lutherville, MD 21093

Also, MHAMD's annual Legislative Briefing will take place on February 21, 2013 at the Westin Annapolis Hotel. For more information, contact MHAMD at www.mhamd.org

A Family Day rally in Annapolis, sponsored by the Mental Health Coalition, will take place on January 29, 2013. For more information, please contact (410) 235-1178.

The Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health (MCF) will conduct the 12th annual Children's Mental Health Day in Annapolis on Tuesday, January 29, 2013. Included will be a focus on issues of substance use. For more information, please contact MCF, before January 20th, at 410-730-8267.

Cynthia Petion announced retirements of the following MHA/DHMH employees:

- James Chambers, Director of the Office of Adult Services
- Barbara Frances, Office of the State's Attorney General
- Marcia Andersen, Office of Child and Adolescent
- Katherine Gunn, MHA Office of Compliance

There was no Director's Report presented.

AN UPDATE ON THE SECOND CHANCE ACT GRANT AND THE HOMELESS ID FUND PROJECTS – Marian Bland, Director, MHA Office of Special Needs Populations

Ms. Bland gave an overview of the programs managed through the MHA Office of Special Needs Population such as the Maryland Community Criminal Justice Program (MCCJTP), the Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health, and Recovery program (TAMAR), Chrysalis House, Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH), and Shelter Plus Care. Special Needs Population has a long history of collaborative efforts with Maryland's Department of Public Safety and Correctional System (DPSCS). Most recently, DPSCS, in partnership with DHMH,

applied for and received funding through the Second Chance Act Grant to develop a “reach-in” program (co-occurring release program). Through the “reach-in” program, the Departments will collaborate efforts to improve re-entry outcomes. The program will be implemented in Baltimore City, where 60% of the individuals discharged from the Correctional system return. Over the next two years (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2014), it is expected that 75 discharges will receive a number of services and supports to assist them in making successful re-entry into the community including:

- Stipends toward security deposit, clothing or food
- A recovery fund toward housing rental subsidy
- Participation in the state’s Supplemental Social Security, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program to access benefits

The grant will assist in the training toward the use of pre-trial and post-trial best practices and will employ two case managers, one peer support specialist, and one program manager. By choosing a Medicaid vendor to monitor this initiative it is hoped that the program will be sustained through Medicaid funding at the completion of the grant period.

Another project underway is the Homeless ID Fund. This initiative is funded through the state Alcohol Tax. An allotment of \$500,000 will assist more than 8,300 individuals who are homeless, to obtain a copy of their birth certificates (in or out of state), a state ID (with the allowance on one free replacement if lost), and assistance with SOAR benefits and other entitlements. The project will be implemented regionally with the Core Service Agencies administering the eligibility process. Local providers of services to individuals who are homeless will also be partners in the promotion of this project.

SOAR trains social workers and mental health providers, over a 6 month period to assist individuals in applying to increase access to benefits. Each “case manager” averages 40 SOAR applications per year. Over the last 2 1/2 years 204 applications have been filed with a 92% rate of successful eligibility.

AN UPDATE ON THE JOHNSON & JOHNSON - DARTMOUTH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM FAMILY ADVOCACY PROJECT – Bette Stewart, the University of Maryland Evidence-Based Practice Center and Kate Farinholt, Director, NAMI Maryland

The purpose of this program, known as the Family Advocacy Team Project in Maryland, is to increase awareness of supported employment (SE) as an evidence-based practice (EBP) among family members of persons with serious and persistent mental illness. It is known that in many instances, the lack of knowledge among the family members can be the most significant barrier to consumers seeking employment opportunities. The Team comprised of MHA’s Director of Vocational Services and Evidence Based-Practices, MHA’s Director of Consumer Affairs, NAMI’s Family-to-Family State Coordinator/EBP training consultant, and additional NAMI members representing NAMI MD affiliates, will offer four trainings per year on how employment can impact benefits. The first of these trainings (free to consumers and family members) will take place on January 18, 2013 at Arundel Lodge, Edgewater, Maryland. Capacity is 40 and registration must be accepted by January 2nd. There will be three other

trainings in 2013; some planned for Saturday to increase availability for working family members. For more information, please contact Ashley Clark at Ashley.clark@maryland.gov.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

It was announced that **the Council will need volunteer(s) to give testimony at the Hearings on MHA's budget in Annapolis in February.** In the past advocates often sat at a table, panel style, which would include the Joint Council Representative. Please contact Robin Poponne at robin.poponne@maryland.gov or at 410-402-8473 if you are able to represent the Council.

Cynthia Petion updated the Council that the Behavioral Health Council Workgroup will meet again in January. The process is ongoing as Workgroup members explore potential structure, membership, and role issues for a combined ADAA and MHA Behavioral Health Council. Sarah Burns, Sue Diehl, and T.E. Arthur represent the Joint Council on this Workgroup. Please continue to give them input and share ideas with them toward this process.

Council members took some time to discuss issues surrounding the Newton, Connecticut shooting. The unfortunate incident was seen as an opportunity to bring both mental health issues and gun control laws to the forefront. Council members verbalized the importance of using all means of interface with families to encourage the removal of guns from the home including, when applicable, enlisting the help of the family physician. Most agreed that the solution was threefold - needing to address mental health issues, gun control, and reducing elements of violence in the social media. Dan Martin reported that the Maryland Task Force which looked into issues regarding individuals with mental illness having access to fire arms is in the process of submitting its final report and will include recommendations that suggest increased funding for mental health crisis services.

The Executive Committee will not meet today.

The meeting was adjourned.

Please note, the Agenda for the February 19th Council meeting will be posted on the Advisory's Council's web page, under the resources section, on MHA's Web site www.dhmmh.maryland.gov/mha.